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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AFRICA.

Report from Cape Colony—Plague—Examination for plague and plague-infected rodents.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, May 23, 1904.

The following report by the medical officer of health for the Colony on the state of the outbreak of bubonic plague in the Cape Colony for the week ended May 21, 1904, is published for general information.

NOEL JANISCH,
Under Colonial Secretary.

Port Elizabeth.—Two cases of plague were discovered during the week, namely: Two European males on the 17th and 20th instant, respectively. At the plague hospital 1 European male died and 1 colored female was discharged recovered; 6 cases remain under treatment. Two hundred and twenty-two (51 found dead) rats and 303 (27 found dead) mice bacteriologically examined during the week, of which 42 rats and 28 mice proved to be plague-infected.

Other places.—At East London, Uitenhage, Queenstown, King Williams Town, and Knysna no case of plague was discovered in man or animal.

CAPE TOWN.

Harbor board area and shipping in harbor.—Number of rodents examined 291; nothing found suspicious of plague.

Cape Town municipal area.—Number of rodents examined by the medical officer of health for the city 334; nothing found suspicious of plague.

A. JOHN GREGORY,
Medical Officer of Health for the Colony.

BRAZIL.

Reports from Rio de Janeiro—Smallpox and yellow fever—Epidemic dysentery in Pernambuco—Yellow fever and the mosquito.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart reports, May 27 and June 1, as follows:

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows:

During the week ended May 21 the following vessels were inspected and issued bills of health from this office:

On May 17 the German steamship *Syracusa*, for New York, with a cargo of coffee, no passengers, and no change in the personnel of the crew while here; on the same date, the British steamship *Pennine Range*, for New York, with cargo of coffee, no passengers, and 1 new member of crew taken on here; on May 19 the British steamship *Cunaxa*, for Baltimore, with a cargo of manganese ore, no passengers, and 1 new man added to the crew list while here, and on the same date

the British steamship *Titian*, for New York, with a cargo of coffee, 9 first cabin passengers and 16 steerage passengers from this port, and also 2 new members of the crew shipped here.

All steerage passengers on the *Titian* were carefully examined by me before purchasing tickets, as is now the procedure here by virtue of an arrangement made by myself with the steamship companies. All vessels discharged and received cargo, as well as passengers, while lying in the open bay.

Infectious disease in Peru.—Under date of May 19 a report from Lima states that on that date there were registered as occurring on the previous day, in that city, 3 new cases of bubonic plague and 2 cases of yellow fever. Another report of the same date states that "the actual sanitary condition of Lima is satisfactory, although to-day 2 cases of yellow fever have been verified in Rio Chiclayo."

Infectious disease in Chile.—Under date of May 19, a dispatch from Santiago states that in the poor districts of Chiclayo, in Antofagasta, there were, on May 18, 15 new cases of bubonic plague. Another dispatch of the same date states that "there has been a recrudescence of the bubonic plague in Antofagasta. Yesterday there were 15 new verified cases." A dispatch of May 22, from Santiago, states that there are "under treatment in Antofagasta 48 case of bubonic plague."

A dispatch dated May 19 also states that "since the day in which the epidemic of variola showed itself in Santiago there have been registered 500 cases of this disease."

Dysentery in Pernambuco.—The latest reports from Pernambuco are as follows:

Recife, May 22, 1904.—The coefficient of mortality during the last week has risen to 95.1 per 1,000 inhabitants. The total of all deaths during the last fortnight, ending May 15, is 753. Of these, 404 are due to dysentery alone, 65 to diseases of the digestive system, 47 to tuberculosis, 34 to malaria, 33 to variola, 57 to diseases of the nervous system, and 113 to causes badly verified. The records show that during this period 498 persons were interred with a certificate furnished by a physician, and 255 with a certificate attested by 2 witnesses.

The issue of the Brazilian Review for May 24, 1904, has the following:

Pernambuco.—Sanitary conditions grow worse every day, and are now very alarming. Never since the cholera epidemic, fifty years ago, was anything like it known. Commencing with 62 deaths in January this year, they rose to 161 in February, 323 in March, and 617 in April, equivalent to 79.4 per thousand. The Great Western Railroad is doing good service by publishing reports of rainfall at stations along their lines. Rain has been falling more or less irregularly all over the State. Whilst at Parahyba 1½ mm. fell in three days. At Maceio rains have been so heavy as to flood the streets and overturn a wall at the railroad station. It is to be hoped that rains may continue heavy at the capital and extinguish the epidemic of dysentery which is causing so terrible a death rate, chiefly among children and old people. It is generally believed that the disease was brought from Acre by the returning troops. Indeed, it seems not unlikely, as the epidemic certainly seems to date from their return, while the dry and unhealthy weather has helped it to spread.

The United States consul at Pernambuco writes me as follows:

Pernambuco, May 16, 1904.—In reply to your inquiry of the 3d instant I beg to say that during April 617 deaths of dysentery were officially reported. No measures, as far as I can learn, are being taken to combat the disease, except that in certain drug stores medicine is furnished the poor on account of the Government. No experts from outside have arrived to inquire into the origin of the disease. There have been a few cases in which death has occurred within a few hours of the inception of the

disease, but in most cases it has been amenable to treatment, and if death results it comes some days after the first attack.

As the epidemic has spread over both this city and the surrounding country and among rich and poor it is difficult to assign any local cause for it, and it is generally supposed to be caused by the long continued hot, dry weather here this year.

In view of the regular growth of this epidemic it is safe to predict that the deaths for the month of May will approximately be between 800 and 900 from dysentery alone, almost as many as occur from all causes in the same period in Rio de Janeiro, which is four times as great in population as Recife. The situation appears to be most serious, and it is difficult to foretell what proportions this epidemic may soon assume.

Yellow fever and the mosquito.—The following is from a report by Dr. Bento Bueno, made to the government of the State of São Paulo:

At Santos, Campinas, and Sorocaba unceasing war has been waged on mosquitoes. The *Culex taeniatu*s previously so common, has almost disappeared, and with it the epidemics of yellow fever. Transmission by mosquito bite is possible fifty-seven days after infection of the *stegomyia*, and this determines the period during which the greatest vigilance must be exercised in yellow-fever cases, when the patient has not been entirely isolated from access of mosquitoes by netting.

Sanitary report of Rio de Janeiro, week ended May 22, 1904.—During this week there were in all 361 deaths, the largest number this year. Of these 3 were caused by yellow fever, all in hospital, with 8 new cases reported. At the week's end there were 5 cases of yellow fever in Hospital São Sebastião. Variola caused 71 deaths, with 119 new cases reported, leaving at the end of the week 146 cases under treatment in Hospital São Sebastião. No cases nor deaths from bubonic plague and only 1 convalescent in Hospital Paulo Candido is the best report so far of this disease. No deaths were due to measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, or leprosy. Grippe caused 11 deaths, enteric fever 1, dysentery 3, beriberi 1, malarial fevers 5, and tuberculosis 45. The daily average of deaths was 51.57, as compared with an average of 49 for the preceding week, and of 39.71 for the corresponding week last year. The coefficient per 1,000, taking the population as estimated, 850,000, is 22.20. The deaths occurred, as regards localities, as follows: In houses, 222; in civil hospitals, 67; in military hospitals, 5; in Santa Casa de Misericórdia, 62; in asylums, convents, etc., 3; in vessels in port, none, and location unknown, 2.

The highest range of the thermometer was on May 18, 23.8°, and the lowest on May 16, 16.1° C., with a daily average of 19.88° C. The rainfall for the week was 2.27 mm., a daily average of 0.32 mm.

Vaccination in Rio de Janeiro during April, 1904—Port declared free from plague.

During the week ended May 28, 1904, no vessels left this port bound for ports in the United States. No bills of health were issued by the consulate.

There is but little sanitary information to transmit, with respect to other localities than this.

A dispatch from Buenos Ayres May 30 states that during the year 1903 there were in all 16,314 deaths in that city, of which number 17.3 per cent were from infectious and contagious diseases. These figures are for the whole province of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, and are not for the city alone.